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THE FEDERAL REPORT

Inside: the Federal Judiciary

—Al Kamen

END IN SIGHT ...CIA general counsel **Stanley Sporkin**, whose quest for a federal judgeship resembles the travails of Sisyphus and the rock, is getting closer to his goal, sources said last week.

Sporkin's nomination to the U.S. District Court here has been held up for 16 months because of opposition from conservative senators including **Jeremiah Denton** (R-Ala.).

The Senate Judiciary Committee held an unusual closed-door session last week to hear allegations against Sporkin, including one that Sporkin improperly helped a Central Intelligence Agency official under investigation by the Justice Department for leaking classified information.

Sources said most of the 11 scheduled witnesses testified and cleared up many of the questions in Sporkin's favor.

The committee had scheduled Sporkin and the remaining witnesses to testify last Friday, but there was yet another delay, and Sporkin's testimony is now likely to be heard next week.

Sources said that barring new questions, Sporkin appears headed for confirmation.